



the frequency of the tachometer signal. A portion of each pulse is integrated and compared with a reference voltage representing a desired motor speed, and a resulting comparator signal controls the duty cycle of a high current output switching transistor that is connected in series with a motor output circuit (see col. 1, lines 35-44). However, this reference fails to teach a controlling device that is electrically connected with an inductive circuit and a comparator circuit for receiving a control signal and gradually increasing a current that flows through the inductive circuit that corresponds to the control signal to thereby eliminate a peak current that is introduced when the inductive circuit is actuated, as set forth in independent claim 1. *Frazee* also fails to teach the step of gradually increasing a current flowing through the inductive circuit that corresponds to a control signal to thereby eliminate a peak current that is introduced when the inductive circuit is actuated, as set forth in independent method claim 14.

The invention is directed to a starting device for eliminating a peak current that is introduced when an inductive circuit, such as a motor and a direct current (DC) motor, is actuated (see pg. 2, lines 10-15).

In contrast, the circuit disclosed in *Frazee* is directed to accurately controlling the speed of a motor. Pursuant to this, the circuit in *Frazee* utilizes a duty cycle switch means. According to this reference, the duty cycle switch means is a high current output switching transistor that is in series with the output of the motor circuit, and is used to accurately control the motor speed by controlling the duty cycle of the switch (see col. 1, lines 30-34, and lines 42-44).

In sum, the *Frazee* patent fails does not teach a controlling device that is electrically connected with an inductive circuit and a comparator circuit for receiving a control signal and gradually increasing a current that flows through the inductive circuit that corresponds

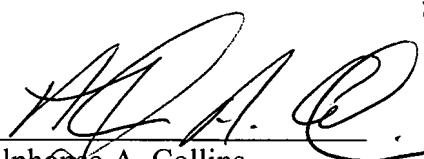


to the control signal to thereby eliminate a peak current that is introduced when the inductive circuit is actuated, nor does the *Frazee* patent teach the step of gradually increasing a current flowing through the inductive circuit that corresponds to a control signal to thereby eliminate a peak current that is introduced when the inductive circuit is actuated, as positively recited in independent claim 1 and independent method claim 14, respectively. Based on these differences, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 14 are not anticipated by the *Frazee* reference. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectively requested.

In light of the patentability of independent claims 1 and 14 for the reasons above, dependent claims 2-13 and 15-20 are also patentable over the prior art.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance. Early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. However, if there are any questions regarding this response, or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this would expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,


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